Tom's Coffee House April 16.

No. 129

THE CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF ENGLAND, &c.

(Price One Shilling.)

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THE CHRONICLE OF THE KINGS OF *ENGLAND.*

Written in the Manner of the Ancient

JEWISH HISTORIANS.

By *NATHAN BEN SADDI,*

A PRIEST of the JEWS.

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MDCCXL.

THE

CHRONICLE

OF THE

KINGS

OF

ENGLAND

THE PREFACE.

NATHAN BEN SADDI, a Servant of God, of the Houſe of *Iſrael*, to all and every of his Readers, whether *Jew* or *Gentile*, greeting.

Notwithſtanding that many have taken in Hand to write the Hiſtory of *Eng-*

England, it ſeemed good unto me alſo, moſt excellent Reader, to ſet forth in Order ſome Things that have happen'd ſince the Conqueſt of *William* the *Norman*.

Now this I have choſen to do in the Manner of our Forefathers, the ancient *Jewiſh* Hiſtorians, as being not only the moſt conciſe, but the moſt venerable Way of Writing.

Howbeit, I would not that thou ſhouldſt be offended, or take in evil Part that I have adventured to imitate thoſe ſublime Originals: neither let it enter into thine Heart that I have done this Thing in Sport, or Watonneſs of Wit; for verily I abound not therewith, as thou wilt undoubtedly perceive.

Nevertheleſs, in peruſing this delectable Hiſtory thou wilt meet with abundant

dant Matter both for Information and Amuſement, and peradventure alſo for Inſtruction.

And it ſhall come to paſs when thou readeſt of the fooliſh Kings that have ruled the Land, then ſhall thy Soul be troubled, and thou ſhalt ſay within thy ſelf, how ſmall a Portion of Senſe ſufficeth to govern a great Kingdom?

But when thou readeſt of the Kings that were wiſe and great, then ſhall thy Heart be glad, and thou ſhalt compare the paſſed Times with the preſent, and rejoice therein, and laugh exceedingly.

Moreover thou wilt find, that the End of the firſt was Bitterneſs and Shame, but the End of the laſt was Glory

Glory and Honour: Theſe ſhall be ſet up, as a Light unto Kings, in all Ages; but Thoſe, as a Warning, from Generation to Generation.

THE

THE CHRONICLE, &c.

I. *WILLIAM* the Conqueror.

NOW it came to pass in the Year One thousand sixty and six, in the Month of *September*, on the eight Day of the Month, that *William* of *Normandy*, surnamed the Bastard, landed in *England*, and pitched his Tent in a Field near the Town of *Hastings*.

Then *Harold* the King, attended by all his Nobles, came forth to meet him with a numerous Army; and gave him Battle.

And it was fought from the riſing of the Sun even to the going down of the ſame.

But the Lord gave up *Harold* into the Hands of his Enemies, and he was pierced with an Arrow, and died in the Field of Battle, and his Army was routed with exceeding great Slaughter.

Then *William* the Baſtard took on him the Royal Robes, and the Scepter and the Diadem, and was made King of *England*, and was called the Conqueror.

And he ſeized the Coffers of King *Harold*; and the Gold, and the Silver, and the precious Stones, and all the Treaſures he diſtributed to his Followers.

And he built a ſtrong Caſtle, and he fortified it with a Wall and a Ditch; and it is called the Tower of *London* unto this Day.

And he ſubdued the Land, and ſubjected it unto him: And that they might not rebel againſt him, he deſpoiled his Subjects of all manner of Inſtruments of War.

And he cauſed a Survey to be taken of all the Lands in the Kingdom, and how much appertain'd to each Perſon, which he wrote in a Book called Dooms-day Book.

And he raiſed a Tribute from every one, according to his Subſtance, and oppreſſed them greatly.

Moreover he made a Law, and cauſed it to be obſerved throughout the Kingdom, that at the Ringing of a Bell, all his Subjects, from the greateſt even unto the leaſt, ſhould extinguiſh their Fires, and ſuffer no Light to appear in their Houſes upon pain of Death.

So it was called the *Curfew* Bell; and at the Sound thereof the Lights were extinguiſhed, and our Fathers ſlept in the dark.

Theſe are the Acts of *William* the Baſtard; who after he had reigned twenty and one Years, died, and was buried in his own Tomb at *Roan* in *Normandy*, and *Rufus* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

II. *WILLIAM RUFUS.*

NOW *Rufus* was thirty and one Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* twelve Years and ten Months, and his Mother's Name was *Matilda*.

And he was a very wicked Man, and his Heart was ſet to do evil continually: and he

contemned the Gods of his Fathers, and believed not: he baniſhed alſo the Prieſts, and converted the ſacred Revenues to his own Uſe.

Wherefore the Lord ſmote him with Sickneſs, and his Sickneſs ſeemed unto Death.

Then his Heart trembled within him, and he repented him of his Sin; and he ſent for the High Prieſt, and beſought him, ſaying:

I have done Evil in the ſight of the Lord, in ſeizing the vacant Biſhopricks; wherefore now I pray thee, take back the Things which belong to the Church, that it may be well with me, and that my Soul may live.

Howbeit, when the Sickneſs left him, he forgot all that he had promiſed, and returned to his evil Ways.

Nevertheleſs he was a valiant Prince, and he fought againſt the *Welch*, and diſcomfited them, and drove them into the Mountains, and conquered the Southern Part of the Country.

And *Malcolm* alſo, King of the *Scots*, made War upon him, but he ſlew him in Battle, and put his Army to Flight.

And in theſe Days were great Diviſions in the Church, and *Urban* the Pope bethought himſelf how he might put an end to them; and he ſent

Meſſengers to all the Princes of *Chriſtendom*, ſaying, Behold now, O ye *Chriſtian* Princes, the *Infidels* have taken the City *Jeruſalem*, even the City of our God: They have poſſeſſed themſelves of the holy Land, and profaned the Sacred Places; wherefore now I pray ye, let us Unite together and drive them from the Face of the Earth, to the End that the holy City may be delivered from the Pollutions of Evil-doers, and from the Scorn of Unbelievers.

So all the *Chriſtian* Princes united together and raiſed a numerous Army; and they diſtinguiſh'd themſelves by a red Croſs, which they wore on the upper Garment, wherefore this Expedition was called the *Cruſade*: and they marched into *Paleſtine*, and beſieged the holy City, and took it.

And it came to paſs in thoſe Days that the Sea overflowed its Banks, inſomuch that great Part of the Lands of Earl *Godwin* in *Kent*, where over-whelmed and loſt in the Sea, and the Place is called *Godwin*'s Sands unto this Day.

And *Rufus* builded a great Hall, the like of which had not been ſeen in *England*;

the

the Length thereof was two Hundred and seventy Feet, and the Breadth thereof was seventy and four Feet; and he called it *Westminster-Hall.*

And it came to pass on a certain Day, as he hunted in the Forrest which his Father had made, that he was slain with an Arrow, and his Body was carryed in a Cart to the City of *Winchester*, and was buryed there, and *Henry* his Brother reigned in his stead.

III. *HENRY* I.

NOW *Henry* was a learned Man, and a Prince of exceeding great Wisdom, insomuch that he was surnamed *Beauclerk*: And he set himself to enact good Laws, and to govern his People wisely.

And he restored to the *English* the Privilege of having Lights in their Houses, after the ringing of the *Curfew* Bell.

And he granted a Charter, whereby he confirmed the Rights of the Church, and relinquished his Claim to the vacant Bishopricks: And he forgave all Debts due to the Crown, all

Offences

Offences committed before his Coronation, and confirmed the Statutes of *Edward* the Confeſſor.

Moreover he ordained that the Length of his own Arm ſhould be the Standard Meaſure throughout the Kingdom, and it is called a Yard unto this Day.

And he inſtituted the High-Court of Parliament, and aſſembled them together in the City of *Saliſbury*: he appointed alſo the Watch.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *Henry*, the Lampreys that he ate, and the Children that he got, are they not written in the Book of *Baker* the Hiſtorian?

And *Henry* reign'd over *England* thirty and five Years, and he died, and *Stephen* Earl of *Boloign* reigned in his ſtead.

IV. *STEPHEN.*

AND *Stephen* was a goodly Man, and a Man of great Valour; howbeit, as he was not the rightful Heir, he bethought himſelf how he might beſt obtain the Affections of the People; and he ſought by all manner of Ways to pleaſe them.

To

To the Nobles he gave leave to build them Forts and Caſtles on their own Lands; he won favour with the Prieſts by exempting them from Temporal Authority; the Gentry he pleaſed with leave to Hunt in his Foreſts; and he pleaſed the People with freeing them from Taxes and Impoſitions.

Nevertheleſs his Reign was full of Trouble, the Sword was not ſheathed, neither ceaſed he from War all the Days of his Life.

And now the Sin of Lazineſs began to prevail in the Land, and the great Men and the Nobles made unto themſelves Coaches and Chariots, and were drawn through the Streets of the City with Horſes; moreover their Pride encreaſed daily, inſomuch that in proceſs of Time they where carryed on on the Shoulders of Men, and bluſhed not.

And *Stephen* reigned over *England* eighteen Years and nine Months, and he dyed, and *Henry Plantagenet* reigned in his ſtead.

V. HENRY II.

AND *Henry* was twenty and two Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* four and thirty Years and eight Months, and his Mother's Name was *Maud*.

And he choſe unto himſelf wiſe and diſcreet Counſellors of State, he appointed learned and able Men to reform abuſes in the Laws, he diſbanded alſo the foreign Army which his Father had kept, and utterly deſtroyed the Caſtles and Forts which the Nobles and Prelates had built in his Reign.

And it came to paſs that grievous Complaints were made unto the King of divers cruel Offences and enormous Crimes committed by the Clergy; occaſioned by their being exempted in the former Reign from the Civil Power, and encouraged, as was ſaid, by the Connivance of *Becket* the High Prieſt.

And the King aſſembled the Prieſts and the Elders together, and he ſaid unto them, is it not meet that this Law ſhould be aboliſhed? And they anſwered him and ſaid, it is meet.

Then *Becket* the High Prieſt ſtood up, and oppoſed the King with great Haughtineſs, and refuſed his Aſſent.

And the Wrath of the King was kindled againſt him, and he cauſed him to be accuſed of divers Crimes and Miſdemeanours, and he was condemned by the Prieſts and the Elders, as a perjur'd Man and a Traytor.

Then *Becket* fled from the Preſence of the King, and became a Fugitive in the Land of *Gaul*.

And it came to paſs after ſome Time, that the King was reconciled to *Becket*, and he ſent for him, and took him again into Favour, and reſtored unto him all the Honours that he before enjoy'd.

Howbeit the Pride of his Heart was not a Jot abated, he burned with Choler, and caſt about how he might revenge himſelf of his Enemies.

And he ſuſpended ſome, and ſome he excommunicated, and became in all reſpects more inſolent than before.

Then certain of the Prieſts and the Nobles came unto the King, and complained of *Beket*, ſaying

ſaying, O King! the Man whom thou forgaveſt, is now more Wicked than he was before, his Crimes are encreaſed ſeven fold.

Then the King waxed exceeding Wroth, and his Countenance changd, and he cryed out, O wretched Man that I am, who ſhall deliver me from this turbulent Prieſt?

Now this Saying was heard by certain of the King's Servants, and they went forth privily, and finding the High Prieſt at the Altar, they fell on him and ſlew him, and daſhed out his Brains at the Foot of the Altar, and his Blood ſtained the holy Place.

And the Prieſts were inflamed with Fury, and they ſent unto the Pope, accuſing the King for the Murder of *Becket*.

And when the Meſſengers came into the Preſence of the Pope they bowed down with great Reverence before him, ſaying.

'† O moſt holy Father! to whom all Power in 'Heaven and Earth is given, who art appointed 'over Empires and Nations to bind their Kings in 'Chains, and their Nobles in Fetters of Iron; be-

† Theſe are the very Words that were uſed in ſeveral of their Addreſſes on that Occaſion.

'hold and ſee how the Boar of the Wood hath
'rooted up the Vinyard of the Lord of Sabboth!
'If the Rage of Tyranny ſhall embrue with
'Blood the Sanctum Sanctorum, what Place ſhall
'be ſafe? Wherefore, O moſt mild Keeper of the
'Walls of *Jeruſalem*, arm all the Eccleſiaſtical
'Power you may, unſheath the Sword of *Peter*,
'and revenge the Death of this holy Martyr,
'whoſe Blood cryeth out for all the Church, and
'whoſe divine Glory already reveal'd in Miracles.

And the Pope was moved exceedingly, and he ſent unto the King commanding him to purge himſelf of the Crime laid to his Charge.

And *Henry* proteſted his Innocence, but it availed not: the Words he had ſpoken teſtifyed againſt him, and he was compell'd to expiate his Fault by a Pennance at the Tomb of *Becket*.

Now the Pennance enjoined was this: he cloathed himſelf in Woollen, and journeyed till he came within Sight of the Church wherein *Beket* was ſlain.

Then he alighted from his Horſe, and pulling his Shoes from his Feet, he walked barefoot till he came to the Tomb where the holy Man was laid, and he proſtrated himſelf before the Shrine, and prayed, and offer'd rich Gifts.

Moreover he uncloathed himſelf, and received Diſcipline from the Hands of the Monks; and they ſtrake him with Rods that the Blood ran from his Shoulders.

And the Fame of *Becket* waxed great, and he was canonized, and Miracles were wrought at his Tomb.

And of the Miracles that he wrought, is it not recorded, how he roſe from the Coffin and lighted the Candles at his own Burial, and when the Funeral Ceremony was ended, how he lift up his Head, and bleſſed the People.

He that believeth let him believe ſtill, and he that is doubtful let him be doubtful ſtill.

And *Henry* was a great Prince, and he Conquer'd the Kingdom of *Ireland* and added it to his Dominions.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *Henry*, the Concubine that he kept in the Bower of *Woodſtock*, and how ſhe was poiſened by *Eleanor* the Queen, are they not written in the Book of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* ſlept with his Fathers, and *Richard* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

VI.

VI. *RICHARD* I.

AND it came to paſs at the Coronation of *Richard*, that certain of the *Jews* preſſing in to ſee the Ceremony, were ſet upon by the People with great Rage and Fury, and many of them were murder'd.

And it was rumour'd abroad that the King had commanded that all the *Jews* ſhould be deſtroyed, and the Tumult increaſed exceedingly, and the *Jews* were deſtroy'd in ſeveral Cities of *England* with a terrible Slaughter.

And *Richard* the King prepared a great Army for the Holy Land; and to ſupport this Expedition, he extorted Money from his Subjects by all manner of Ways, and the Prieſts were inſtructed to preach up the great Merit of this pious Undertaking, and the Duty of ſupporting it.

And he ſet ſail for the Holy Land, with the richeſt and the moſt powerful Fleet that the *Engliſh* had ever ſeen; and he came to an Anchor at *Meſſina* in *Sicily*, on the three and twentieth Day of the Month *September*.

And

And *Tancred* the Baſtard, then King of *Sicily*, had impriſoned *Joanna* the Siſter of *Richard*, whom he had taken to Wife: King *Richard* therefore aſſembling his Forces together, aſſaulted the City, and took it.

And in his Way to *Jeruſalem* he conquered alſo the Iſland of *Cyprus*.

And he overcame *Saladin* the *Turk* in many Battles, and he took from him three thouſand Camels, and four thouſand Horſes and Mules: he took alſo the Towns of *Aſcalon*, *Joppa*, and *Cæſarea*, and behaved in all things with exceeding great Courage, inſomuch that the Glory of the King of *England* eclipſed the Glory of all the Chriſtian Princes.

And it came to paſs after he returned from the Holy Land, as he ſate at Meat in his Palace, Word was brought unto him that *Philip* King of *France* had laid Siege to one of his Towns.

Then *Richard* the King was exceedingly enraged, and he ſware in his Wrath he would not turn his Face till he came to the Army of *Philip*.

And he cauſed the Wall of the Room where he was ſitting to be broken down, and he aſſembled

bled his Army together, and came up with the *French*, and the Lord fought for him, and he diſcomfited the Army of *Philip*, and put them to flight, and he overthrew with his own Hand three of the moſt hardy Knights of *France*.

Wherefore he took for his Motto theſe Words, *Dieu & mon Droit*: and this Device is uſed by the Kings of *England* unto this Day.

And a certain Outlaw named *Robin Hood*, infeſted the Forreſt of *Sherwood* in thoſe Days, inſomuch that none might paſs that way without his Leave.

Howbeit he was a charitable Thief, giving unto the Poor what he took from the Rich; and the Blood of Man he did not ſhed.

And *Richard* reigned over *England* nine Years and nine Months, and he was wounded with an Arrow at the Siege of the Caſtle of *Chalons*, and the Wound mortified, and he died thereof, and *John* his Brother reigned in his ſtead.

VII.

VII. *JOHN.*

AND *John* came not to the Crown by Hereditary Right, he received it from the Hands of *Hubert* the High Prieſt, who, in his Oration before the Aſſembly of the People, declared, that by all Reaſon, divine and human, none ought to ſucceed in the Kingdom, but who ſhould be for the Worthineſs of his Virtues, univerſally choſen by the People, as was this Man.

Nevertheleſs his Virtues are not recorded, neither do we read of this his Election: peradventure it was a Lye.

And it came to paſs that *Hubert* the High Prieſt died, and *Grey* Biſhop of *Norwich* was elected by King *John* to ſucceed him.

But this Election was oppoſed by the Pope in favour of *Stephen Langton* a Cardinal, whom when *John* refuſed to admit, a Quarrel enſued betwixt the Pope and the King; inſomuch that the whole Nation was laid under an Interdict, the King was excommunicate, his Subjects were abſolved from their Obedience, and all divine Ordinances ceaſed, the Burying-places were ſhut

up, the Dead were caſt out as Dogs, and remained unburied upon the Face of the Earth.

Howbeit this Severity brake not the Spirit of *John*, nor humbled him a jot.

And in his Wrath he ſware, by the Teeth of God, he would be revenged on the Pope and on all that took part with him.

Accordingly he baniſhed the Biſhops from the Kingdom, and confiſcated the Lands and Goods of all the Prieſts that obey'd the Interdict.

Now when the Pope perceived the Stubbornneſs of *John*, and that the roaring of his Bulls availed not; he ſent Meſſengers unto *Philip* the King of *France*, and they came unto the King, and they addreſſed him, ſaying:

O *Philip*, thus ſaith the Pope, as thou regardeſt the Remiſſion of thy Sins, aſſemble now thy Army together, and drive out King *John* from the Throne of *England*, and thou and thy Sons after thee ſhall poſſeſs it for ever.

And *Philip* raiſed an Army, and prepared to invade *England*.

Then *John* was ſore troubled, and his Heart ſmote him, and he humbled himſelf before *Pandolphus* the Legate of the Pope, and he took

his

his Crown from off his Head, and laid it at the Feet of *Pandolphus*.

He reſigned alſo his Kingdom unto the Pope, and he took an Oath that he and his Succeſſors ſhould hold it from the See of *Rome*, at the annual Tribute of a Thouſand Marks of Silver.

Thus ended the Conteſt betwixt the Spiritual and Temporal Sword: And *John* returned to the Boſom of the Church, and continued a dutiful Son all the Days of his Life.

Wherefore the Holy Father ſupported him againſt his Subjects in all Manner of Wickedneſs and Oppreſſion.

And he vexed them daily with new Taxes and Impoſitions, inſomuch that the Barons and great Men of the Kingdom at length made War againſt him, in Behalf of their Rights and Liberties.

Now theſe were called the Barons Wars, and the Sword of Juſtice prevailed, and they compelled the King to confirm their ancient Privileges, and he ſigned a Charter of Rights, which is called *Magna Charta* unto this Day.

Thus wicked Princes are ſome times the Inſtruments of Good to a People whom the Lord loveth.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *John*, the * Bridge that he built, and his † Blaſphemy on the Buck, are they not recorded in the Book of *Baker* the Hiſtorian?

And *John* reigned over *England* eighteen Years and five Months, and he died, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

VIII. *HENRY* III.

AND *Henry* was nine Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* fifty and five Years, and his Mother's name was *Iſabel*.

Now the Acts of King *Henry*, and all the fooliſh Things that he did, behold they are written in the Book of *Speed* the Hiſtorian.

* *London* Bridge, which was before of Wood, being burnt down in this Reign, it was then rebuilt with Stone, as it now remains.

† It is ſaid that being a hunting one Day, at the opening of a fat Buck: ſee, ſaid he, how this Deer hath proſper'd, and how fat he is, and yet I dare ſwear he never heard Maſs in his Life.

He

He that hath Patience to read, let him read.

And *Henry* liv'd all the Days of his Life, and he died, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XI. *EDWARD* I.

AND the Lord pitched his Tabernacle in the Heart of King *Edward*, and he became a great Prince, and was called *Longſhanks*.

And he conquer'd the Kingdom of *Wales*, and over threw *Lewellen* the King in Battle, and ſlew him, and cut of his Head, and crowned it with Ivy, and ſet it up on the of Tower *London* as a Terror to *Wales*.

And great Fear came upon all *Welchmen*, and they ſubmitted themſelves unto *Edward*, and the two Nations became as one People unto this Day.

And it came to paſs that *Alexander* King of *Scotland* dyed, and great Contentions aroſe between the Lords *Baliol* and *Bruce* who ſhould be King.

And the Matter was refered unto *Edward*, and he gave it in favour of *Baliol*, and *Baliol* was made

King

King, and did Homage unto *Edward* for his whole Kingdom.

And *Edward* the King treated King *Baliol* with great Haughtineſs, and ſummon'd him to appear before him on every little Complaint.

Wherefore the Anger of *Baliol* was kindled againſt Him, and his Heart ſwelled with Indignation, and he ſought how he might caſt off the Yoke which galled his Neck.

And he ſent Meſſengers unto the Pope and got himſelf abſolved from the Oaths he had taken to King *Edward*, and renounced his Sovereignty.

Then *Edward* the King rais'd an Army and marched againſt him, and the Lord gave up *Baliol* into the Hands of his Enemies, and he was taken Priſoner, and carry'd to the Tower of *London*.

And *Edward* conquer'd the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and ſubjected it unto him: and he burnt the Records of the Kingdom, and he ſeized the Crown, and the Scepter, and all the Regalia, and brought them away.

And the Stone alſo which was *Jacob*'s Pillow, and the Chair of Wood which encloſed it, and it is the Coronation Chair unto this Day.

And

And *Edward* the King enacted divers good Laws and useful Ordinances: and he laid great Fines on many of his Judges and other Magistrates for their Corruption; and he raised from their Crimes two hundred and thirty six thousand Marks.

He banished also the *Jews*, to the Number of fifteen thousand, and confiscated their Goods.

And *Edward* reigned over *England* thirty and four Years, seven Months and twenty Days, and he died, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his stead.

X. *EDWARD* II.

NOW *Edward* was a wicked Prince, and did that which was evil in the Sight of the Lord.

And he departed from the Worship of his Fathers, and made unto himself two Idols: and the Name of the one was *Gaveston*, and the the Name of the other was *Spencer*.

And he set them up in his high Places, and commanded them to be worshipped.

Howbeit certain of the Nobles and great Men of the Kingdom refused to bow down before the Idols, which *Edward* the King had set up.

And

And great Tumults enſued, and the Nobles roſe up againſt the King, and reproved him, ſaying; O King! the Gods which thou haſt ſet up are Idols, which we nor our Fathers ever knew, neither will we worſhip.

Moreover they plucked them down from their high Places, and daſhed them in pieces, and utterly deſtroyed them.

Nevertheleſs the King repented not, neither turned he from the Evil of his Ways; wherefore they took from him the Crown, and the Scepter, and the Royal Robes, and they depoſed him from the Government of the Kingdom, after he had reigned over *England* nineteen Years, ſix Months and fifteen Days, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XI. *EDWARD* III.

AND *Edward* was fourteen Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* fifty Years, and his Mother's Name was *Iſabella*.

And ſhe took upon her the Government of the Kingdom during the Infancy of her Son: and

and her Heart lusted after Idols, and after all the Abominations of her Husband.

And she made unto herself an Idol, and called its Name *Mortimer*; and she fell down before it, and worshipped with great Zeal Day and Night;

Howbeit when *Edward* the King became of Age, he was greatly offended at the Abominations of his Mother: wherefore he put her in Prison; and he plucked down the Idol which she had set up, and he hung it on a Tree, even the Tree of *Tyburn*.

And *Edward* became a great and mighty King, and he begat a Son, and called him after his own Name: moreover he was afterwards surnamed *the Black Prince*, and he waxed strong and valiant, and became a mighty Warriour in the Land.

And he fought the Battles of his Father, and the Arm of the Lord was with him, and he conquered the Kingdom of *France*, and took Prisoner the King thereof, with his Son and many of the Nobles.

And *Edward* the King took on him the Sovereignty of *France*, and he quarter'd the Arms of

the Kingdom; and his Succeſſors are called Kings of *France* unto this Day.

And the *Black Prince* reſtored alſo to his Kingdom *Peter* King of *Caſtile*, and defeated his Enemies.

And his Name became great over all the Earth, and the Princes thereof ſought his Friendſhip.

Howbeit, as it is written of old, *the Race is not to the ſwift, nor the Battle to the ſtrong*, a Diſtemper took him, and he died in the forty and ſixth Year of his Age; and the Glory of *Edward* his Father from that time forth diminiſhed.

In theſe Days lived thilk grete Poet, hight Geoffery Chaucere, the Fader of Inglis Poeſie, whoſe Workis ben ritten in Rime, and imprinted in a Boke, ycleped the Workis of Maiſter Geoffery Chaucere; and he ſmothed the Tonge of his Contrie, and his Fame is woxen grete in the Lond.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *Edward*, and the noble Order of the Garter that he inſtituted, behold they are written in the Book of *Aſhmole* the Herald.

And *Edward* reigned over *England* fifty Years, and he died, and *Richard* his Grandſon reigned in his ſtead.

XII *RICHARD* II.

AND *Richard* was a wicked Prince, and did that which was evil in the Sight of the Lord, oppreſſing the People, and loading them daily with grievous Impoſitions.

And he laid a Tax on the Heads of all his Subjects from fifteen Years old and upwards, of what Sex, or Condition ſoever, which was called the Poll Tax, and it was collected with great Strictneſs and Severity.

And it came to paſs that one of the Tax-gatherers came to the Houſe of a certain Tyler at the Town of *Darſond* in *Kent*, commonly called *Wat* the Tyler and demanded the Tax for one of his Drughters.

And *Wat* the Tyler, ſaid unto him, nay verily but thou ſhouldſt not demand the Tax of my Daughter, for the Maiden is not yet fifteen Years old.

Howbeit the Tax-gatherer believed not the Words of her Father, for the Virgin was fair and comely to look on.

Wherefore he ſtooped down, and put his Hand beneath the Garments of the Maiden to

ſee

ſee if peradventure the Signs of her Womanhood might not appear; and he diſcovered her Nakedneſs.

And the Virgin was covered with Shame, inſomuch that ſhe ſpake not a Word.

But the Impudence of the Thing incenſed her Father, and his Indignation kindled againſt the Officer, and he had a Hammer in his Hand, with which he ſtrake him on the Head that his Brains came out.

And immediately a great Tumult aroſe, and and all the People defended the Action of *Wat* the Tyler, and praiſed his Courage: moreover they choſe him for their Captain and determined to aboliſh the Tax.

And they marched in a Body and encamped on *Black-Heath*, and he was joined there by *Jack Straw*, and their Number encreaſed to an hundred Thouſand Men,

And a certain Prieſt named *Ball*, was Chaplain to the Army, and he preached to the Multitude from theſe Words.

When Adam *dalve and* Eve *Span,*
Who was then a Gentleman?

From

From hence he taught them that all Men were born equal, thas it was never the Design of Heaven that one part of Mankind ſhould be the Slaves and Vaſſals of the other; and therefore exhorted them to deſtroy the Nobility, the Clergy, the Magiſtrates, and all who pretended to lord it over them,

With theſe pious Reſolutions they marched to *London*, and encamped on *Tower-Hill*, plundering and burning the Houſes of all whom they thought their Enemies.

And they ſet fire to the Temple, and burnt and deſtroyed the Writings of all the Lawyers; they burned alſo the Palace and all the rich Furniture of the Duke of *Lancaſter* in the *Savoy*,

And they dragged from the Churches and from the Altars many who had fled for refuge, and ſlew them in the Streets.

And they ſtrake off the Heads of *Simon Sudbury* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and *Hales* the High Treaſurer, and many more on *Tower-Hill*.

Then the King ſent Meſſengers unto them deſiring to know what they would have: and *Wat* the Tyler demanded to ſpeak with the King in Perſon.

Then

Then *Richard* the King, attended by many of his Nobles, and the Mayor and the Aldermen of *London* went forth to meet him, and they met him in *Smithfield*.

And he behaved with great Arrogance, and and his demands were ſo extravant that the King knew not what Anſwer to make unto him.

Moreover he commanded the Squire who held the Sword of the King to deliver it to him: howbeit the Squire took Courage and refuſed to deliver it, ſaying, the Sword of a King would ill become the Hand of a Knave.

Now *Wat* the Tyler was vexed at this ſaying and he advanced with his Sword and would have ſlain the Squire.

Then *William Walworth* the Mayor of *London* was exceedingly enraged at the Inſolence of the Tyler, and he ſtepped forth, and ſmote him with a Dagger that he dyed: Wherefore the Dagger was added to the Arms of the City.

Thus ended the Inſurrection of *Wat Tyler* and *Jack Straw*; and all the Rabble returned each to his own Houſe.

And *Richard* the King made unto himſelf Idols, as *Edward* the Second his Predeceſſor had

had done: and the thing which he did displeased the People, and they deposed him from the Government, and they took the Crown from off his Head, and put it on the Head of *Henry* Duke of *Lancaster* the Son of *John* of *Gaunt*.

XIII. *HENRY IV.*

AND *Henry* was thirty and three Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirteen Years five Months and one and twenty Days.

And he did that which was evil in the Sight of the Lord as most of his Fathers had done.

Howbeit he made an Act for the burning of Hereticks, and they that could not believe as the Church commanded, were tyed to a Stake till the Flames consumed them: and for this he was called by the Priests and the Monks, the Writers of that Time, a pious and religious Prince.

And he was seized with an Apoplexy and he dyed, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his stead.

XIV

XIV. *HENRY* V.

AND *Henry* was a valiant Prince, and a great Warrior.

And he laid claim to the Crown of *France*, and marched into the Kingdom with an Army of thirty Thouſand Men, taking the Town of *Harfleur*, with many other ſtrong Towns.

And he defeated the *French* Army at the Battle of *Agincout*, and ſlew to the Number of ſixty Thouſand Men. And the Lord fought for him, and the whole Kingdom was given into his Hands and he appointed *John* Duke of *Bedford* the Regent thereof.

And it came to paſs that the Doctrines of *Wickliffe* the Preacher, who had been condemned by the Church as a Heretick, began now to ſpread over *England*, and prevailed much.

And the Tenets he taught were theſe: that the Bread and Wine in the Sacrament of the Altar, ſtill continued to be Bread and Wine after the Conſecration of the Prieſt; that the Worſhip of Images was Idolatry and a great Sin; that Pilgramages, Pennances, and Confeſſions to

the

the Prieſt were not at all neceſſary to Salvation, but only a good Life.

Now theſe were eſteemed deteſtable Doctrines, and damnable Hereſies.

And great Fear came upon all Prieſts, leaſt the Eyes of the People ſhould be opened, and their Craft expoſed: wherefore they beſought the King that he would join with them in extirpating out of the Land all who ſhould teach or profeſs theſe dangerous Truths.

And Sir *John Oldcaſtle* Lord *Cobham*, a Man of Virtue and great Reputation, with Sir *Roger Acton*, and many others were hanged and burnt in *Smithfield* for profeſſing the ſame.

Thus Truth was defeated, and Ignorance again prevailed in the Land; the Prieſts and the *Levites* triumph'd, and the Minds of the People where clothed in Darkneſs, and fed with Error.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *Henry* and all that he did, are they not written in the Books of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* reigned over *England* thirty and four Years and he dyed, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XV. *HENRY* VI.

AND *Henry* was eight Months old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirty and nine Years, and his Mother's Name was *Kathrine*.

And in him was fullfilled what was written of old, *woe to that Nation whose King is a Child:* for he proved a weak and unfortunate Prince, losing by his Misconduct all that *Henry* his Father had won.

And in these Days there appered a false Propheteſs, named *Joan* of *Arc*, and she called herself the Maid of God, and pretended to be sent from Heaven to deliver the Kingdom of *France* from the *English* Yoke.

And she wrought Miracles, and performed many Wonderous Things.

She rais'd also the Siege of *Orleans*, and defeated the *English* where-ever she came, insomuch that the *French* believ'd her to be conducted by the Finger of God, but the *English* thought her sent from the Devil, and the Souldiers began to be terrified at her Presence.

Howbeit

Howbeit ſhe was at length taken by the *Engliſh* at the City of *Roan* in *Normandy*; and ſhe was convicted of Witchcraft, and they burnt her there, that it might be fulfilled which was ſpoken by the Prophet, *thou ſhallnot ſuffer a Witch to live.*

In this Reign began the cruel War betwixt the two Houſes of *York* and *Lancaſter*, where Brother fought with Brother, the Father againſt his Son and the Son againſt his Father, till the Rivers flowed with the Blood thereof, and Rage and Slaughter made deſolate the Land.

At length *Edward Plantagenet* Duke of *York*, having overthrown the King in many Battles, and taken him Priſoner, depoſed him from the Government, and was crowned King of *England.*

XVI *EDWARD* IV.

AND *Edward* was nineteen Years old when he came to the Crown, and he was tall and well favour'd, and of an exceeding graceful Preſence.

Moreover he was a Prince of great Courage and Wiſdom, and he ſet himſelf to enact good Laws and to reform the Abuſes in his Government.

And he ſate in the Courts of Juſtice three Days himſelf, that he might be a Witneſs how his Laws were executed.

And many more good Qualities had *Edward*: howbeit he luſted after Women exceedingly, and he was a gallant Prince, and young and handſome to look on; wherefore the Hearts of the Ladies were in his Hand.

And it came to paſs that *Matthew Shore*, a Goldſmith in *London*, had taken to Wife the moſt beautiful Virgin in all the City.

And the Fame of her Beauty reached the Ears of the King, and he diſguiſed himſelf as a Merchant, and went to the Houſe of *Shore*, pretending to buy Jewels.

And when he ſaw how exceeding fair ſhe was, even beyond what Fame had reported unto him, his Heart was ſmitten with Love, and he burned to enjoy her.

Wherefore he diſcovered himſelf, and took her home to his Bed, and ſhe lived in Adultery with him all the Days of his Life.

In this Reign was born *Thomas Parr*, of the County of *Salop*, who lived during the Reign of ten Kings, even to the Days of King *Charles* I.

when

when he died, being an hundred fifty and two Years old.

Moreover he did Pennance for Fornication at the Age of an hundred Years.

And *Edward* reigned twenty and three Years, and he died, and was buried in his own Tomb at *Windſor*, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XVII. *EDWARD* V.

AND *Edward* was eleven Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* nine Weeks and three Days, and was murder'd in the Tower by his Uncle *Richard*, the crooked Duke of *Glouceſter*.

XVIII. *RICHARD* III.

AND *Richard* took on him the Government of the Kingdom, and ſet the Crown upon his own Head.

And in order to clear his Way to the Throne, and ſecure to himſelf the Poſſeſſion thereof, he murder'd all who ſtood in his Way.

Wherefore the Anger of the Lord was kindled againſt

againſt him, and he ſmote him by the Hand of *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*, of the Houſe of *York*, and he died in the Field of Battle, even *Boſworth* Field.

Thus ended the War betwixt the two Houſes of *York* and *Lancaſter*, after twelve pitched Battles had been fought, in which there were ſlain two Kings, one Prince; ten Dukes, two Marqueſſes, twenty one Earls, twenty ſeven Lords, two Viſcounts, one Lord Prior, one Judge, one hundred and thirty three Knights, four hundred and forty one Eſquires, and eighty four thouſand nine hundred ninety and eight private Soldiers.

And they took the Crown from the Head of King *Richard*, and put it on the Head of *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*; and all the Army ſhouted for Joy, and cried out, *Long live King* Henry *the Seventh.*

And the Body of *Richard* was found in the Field of Battle, and they laid it on a Horſe, and brought it to the City of *Leiceſter*, and it was buried there, and *Henry* of *Richmond* reigned in his ſtead.

XIX.

XIX. *HENRY* VII.

NOW *Henry* was a wiſe and politick Prince and he ſet himſelf by all manner of Ways to ſecure the Throne to him and his Succeſſors for ever,

And he extorted from his Subjects great Sums of Money, and filled his Coffers, and the whole Study of his Life was to heap up Riches.

To this End he made uſe of two Men, and the Name of the one was *Epſom*, and the Name of the other was *Dudley*.

And he gave them power and Authority to plunder and oppreſs his Subjects; aud they exerciſed all manner of Injuſtice upon them, accuſing the Innocent of Crimes, and amercing and fining them in great Sums without Trial, converting Law and Juſtice into Rapine and Cruelty,

Now whether it were out of an Affectation of State and Grandeur, or peradventure that he feared ſome ſudden attempt upon his Perſon (for he was not beloved of the People) he appointed a Band of tall Men to attend him, cal-

led

led the Yeomen of the Guard, which all the Kings of *England* since have kept up unto this Day.

And in his Reign there arose two Impostors one after the other, laying claim to the Crown of *England*.

And the Name of the one was *Simnel* a Baker's Son; and the Name of the other was *Perkin Warbeck*; each pretending to be *Richard* Duke of *York*, Brother to King *Henry* the Fifth.

Howbeit the First was quickly suppress'd, and after having been crowned King in *Dublin*, had the Honour to be made King *Henry*'s Turnspit.

As to the other, after many Honours done him in the Courts of *France*, *Spain* and *Scotland*, as a Prince of the Royal Blood, he was at last advanced to the Pinacle of *Tyburn*.

And in these Days a strange Disease arose, and it was called the Sweating Sickness; and it continued for the Space of a Month, and swept away great Numbers.

But woe unto you Whoremongers, Adulterers, and Fornicators, and woe unto you Harlots and Street-walkers, that lye in wait for Prey, and spread your Nets in every Corner

for

for a Diſeaſe * hath ſtricken ye thro' the Reins and the Heat of your Luſts ſhall burn ye up.

Now the Reſt of the Acts of King *Henry*, and the magnificent Chapple that he built, are they not written in the Book of *Bacon* the Hiſtorian?

And *Henry* reigned over *England* twenty and three Years and eight Months, and he dyed, and *Henry* his Son reigned in his ſtead.

XX *HENRY* VIII.

AND *Henry* was eighteen Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* thirty and eight Years, and his Mother's Name was *Elizabeth*.

And he gat the Love of his Subjects in the Beginning of his Reign, by cauſing to be executed as Traytors and Oppreſſors thoſe wicked Inſtruments of his Father *Epſom* and *Dudley*.

Moreover he won favour in their Eyes by ſpending amongſt them, in Balls and Shews and and ſumptuous Feaſts, thoſe immenſe Treaſures which had been drained from them, and hoarded up in the Coffers of his Father.

* In this Reign the Pox was firſt known in *England*.

And in these Days the Iniquity of the Popedom was arrived at its full height, insomuch that Indulgences for all Manner of Crimes were publickly sold for Money; and all kinds of people, how vile and profligate soever, were promis'd everlasting Happiness on purchasing them.

Now the Impiety of these things provoked the Indignation of *Martin Luther*, and he exposed the Absurdity of them in many Books. Moreover he censured the Usurpation of the Pope, and made a Mock of his Authority.

Then *Henry* the King in the Zeal of his Heart wrote an Answer to *Martin Luther*, defending the Pope; and from henceforth he and his Successors are honour'd with the Title of *Defender of the Faith*.

Howbeit he afterwards threw off the Pope's Authority, and departed from many of the Errors of the Church of *Rome*.

Wherefore the Thunder of the Pope was levell'd against him and he was excommunicate; his Subjects also were absolved from their Obedience, and all the Princes of *Europe* were excited to make War upon him,

But

But *Henry* was beloved at Home and feared abroad, wherefore the Thunder of the Pope was deſpiſed, neither was he terrified with all the fiery Bolts of his Wrath.

And *Henry* made unto himſelf a great Idol the Likeneſs of which was not in Heaven above nor in the Earth beneath. And he reared up his Head unto the Clouds, and extended his Arm all over the Land.

His Legs alſo were as the Poſts of a Gate, or as an Arch ſtretched forth over the Doors of all the Publick Offices in the Land; and whoſoever went out, or whoſoever came in, paſſed beneath, and with idolatrous Reverence lift up their Eyes, and kiſſed the Cheeks of the Poſtern.

And all the People both ſmall and great fell down before him and worſhiped, for they feared his Power.

Prieſts alſo and Biſhops brought him Water to waſh, and Dukes and Nobles held the Towel.

Howbeit he fell down from the Pinacle of his Greatneſs, and was daſhed in pieces even as a Potter's Veſſel. Wherefore let him that ſtandeth take heed leſt he fall.

And *Henry* was a gracious King, but a Tyrannical Huſband.

And he took unto himſelf ſix Wives, but they pleaſed him not; wherefore he accuſed them of Incontinence and divers Crimes, and put them away. Moreover he beheaded ſome, and ſome he put in Priſon, and he dealt cruelly with them.

And it came to paſs when a certain Prieſt in one of his Sermons defended the King in this Matter, then all the Women of the Town roſe up againſt him, and they ſtoned him with Stones, and drove him from amongſt them.

Now the reſt of the Acts of King *Henry*, and all he did, are they not written in the Books of the *Chronicles* of the Kings of *England*?

And *Henry* was a Man of great Parts and much Experience, and could penetrate very far into hidden Things; yea ſo great was the Opinion of his Capacity that the Meaſure of his Abilities is preſerved in the Tower of *London* unto this Day: and it behoveth all Men to humble themſelves before him, and confeſs his ſuperior Greatneſs.

And

And *Henry* ſlept with his Fathers, and *Edward* his Son reigned in his Stead.

XXI *EDWARD* VI.

NOW *Edward* was nine Years old when he began to reign, and he reigned over *England* ſix Years and five Months.

And he was a pious Prince, and he loved the Truth, and promoted the Reformation which *Henry* his Father had begun.

Howbeit he was cut off as a Flower in its Bud, or as a Roſe in Morning Sun: his Days alſo were as a Span, and the Years of his Reign as a Shadow that paſſeth away: but his Memory ſmelleth ſweet for ever.

And he appointed for his Succeſſor the Lady *Jane Grey*, and ſhe was proclaim'd Queen, but the Party of *Mary* prevailing, *Jane* was beheaded in the Tower of *Lnodon*, and *Mary* her Siſter reigned in her ſtead.

XXIII

XXII. *MARY.*

AND *Mary* adhered to the Church of *Rome*, and ſhe revived the Errors thereof, and reſtored all the ancient Forms and fooliſh Ceremonies.

Moreover ſhe was of a cruel Nature, and ſhe perſecuted unto Death all who oppoſed her Doctrines, and her Reign ſtinketh of Blood unto this Day.

Old Men and Children, young Men and Maidens, they alſo that gave Suck with the Infant at the Breaſt, ſhe burned at the Stake; and the Fire of Perſecution was not quenched all the Days of her Life.

But the Vengeance of the Lord overtook her, and ſhe was torn from the Face of the Earth as a Bramble that choaketh the Field, and her Name is an Abomination.

And from the Time that ſhe was crowned to the Day in which the Lord ſmote her with Sickneſs, was five Years and four Months, and ſhe died, and *Elizabeth* her Siſter reigned in her ſtead.

XXIII.

XXIII. *ELIZABETH.*

NOW *Elizabeth* was twenty and five Years old when ſhe began to reign, and ſhe reigned over *England* forty and four Years, four Months, and ſeven Days, and her Mother's Name was *Anna Bullen.*

And ſhe was endowed with Wiſdom from above, and the Spirit of the Almighty gave her Underſtanding: ſhe choſe unto her wiſe and able Miniſters, ſhe hearkened unto their Counſels, and ſhe governed her Kingdom with Power and great Glory.

The Sea alſo was ſubject unto her, and ſhe reigned on the Ocean with a mighty Hand.

Her Admirals compaſſed the World about, and brought her home Treaſures from the uttermoſt Parts of the Earth.

The Glory of *England* ſhe advanced to its height, and all the Princes of the Earth ſought her Love; her Love was fixed on the Happineſs of her People, and would not be divided.

The Æra of Learning was alſo in her Reign,

Reign, and the Genius of Wit ſhone bright in the Land.

Spencer and *Shakeſpear*, *Verulam* and *Sidney*, *Rawleigh* and *Drake*, adorned her Court, and made her reign immortal.

And woe unto you *Spaniards*, woe unto you ye haughty Uſurpers of the *American* Seas; for at the Lightening of her Eyes ye were deſtroyed, and at the Breath of her Mouth ye were ſcattered abroad; ſhe came upon your Armado as a Whirlwind, and as a Tempeſt of Thunder ſhe overwhelmed you in the Sea.

Wiſdom and Strength were in her Right Hand, and in her Left were Glory and Wealth.

She ſpake, and it was War; ſhe waved her Hand, and the Nations dwelt in Peace.

Her Miniſters were juſt, her Counſellors were ſage, her Captains were bold, and her Maids of Honour ate Beef Stakes to Breakfaſt.

Now the reſt of the Acts of Queen *Elizabeth*, and all the glorious things that ſhe did, are they not written in the Books of the Chronicles of the Kings of *England*?

And *Elizabeth* ſlept with her Fathers, and *James* of *Scotland* reigned in her ſtead.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

AND now, gentle Reader, peradventure thou wilt ask me, why I have not proceeded further in this renowned Hiſtory than the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth?*

I could give thee many Reaſons to juſtify my Conduct in this Particular.

Perhaps, by coming too near our own Times, I might give Offence to ſome Perſons who are now living; or perhaps it might tend to inflame the Parties which already too much divide the Land; or perhaps I might not be ſo impartial my ſelf, in relating theſe Matters, as becometh the Character of a grave Hiſtorian.

But the beſt Reaſon that I can give thee is this: The Lives and Characters of the glorious Succeſſors of that Royal Maiden, are ſo wonder-

ful, ſo ſublime and exalted, that it is beyond the Flight of a Gooſe's Quill to reach them. This, I hope thou wilt believe, is the Truth.

Howbeit, if thou ſhouldſt happen to be incredulous, and think that this was not my real Motive to deſiſt, let it furthermore be known unto thee, that tho' the Caſe was otherwiſe, yet it is the peculiar Privilege and Prerogative of Kings, that they grow not wicked, neither do they wax fooliſh, till after they have been dead an hundred Years.

FINIS.